

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05560 250848Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 CU-02 BIB-01  
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /090 W  
-----250917Z 105325 /17

R 250720Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6616  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652C N/A  
TAGS: PFOR CSCE UR US  
SUBJECT: SOVIETS CITE U.S. VISA DENIALS TO COUNTER CRITICISM  
ON HELSINKI AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: DURING WEEK OF APRIL 18 SOVIET PRESS MADE  
EFFORT TO DEFLECT CRITICISM OF MOSCOW'S RECORD ON HELSINKI  
FINAL ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY  
PLAYING BACK U.S. PRESS CRITICISM OF DECISION TO DENY  
VISAS TO SOVIET TRADE UNIONISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA APRIL 18 BOTH CARRIED TASS  
REPORT FROM WASHINGTON ON STATE DEPARTMENT DECISION NOT  
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TO GRANT VISAS TO THREE-MAN DELEGATION OF SOVIET TRADE  
UNIONISTS INVITED TO LONGSHOREMEN'S CONVENTION IN CALIFORNIA.  
DIRECT COMMENT ON U.S. ACTION, OTHER THAN ITS ANTI-  
COMMUNIST MOTIVATION, WAS AVOIDED, BUT REPORTE CLAIMED  
THAT U.S. PRESS IS CALLING ATTENTION TO FACT THAT  
VISA REFUSALS VIOLATE PROVISIONS OF FINAL ACT.

2. TASS REPORT IN APRIL 20 IZVESTIYA WENT A BIT FURTHER BY SUGGESTING THAT U.S. ACTION CALLS INTO QUESTION U.S. COMMITMENT IN GENERAL TO CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AND THAT THERE IS DISCREPANCY BETWEEN U.S. ACTION AND ADMINISTRATION'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. U.S. PRESS IS AGAIN USED AS INDIRECT VEHICLE TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE.

3. THIRD AND STRONGEST CRITICISM APPEARED IN PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN APRIL 22 BY YURIY TSAPLIN. TSAPLIN ATTACKS "PROPAGANDISTIC SMOKE SCREEN" BEING CREATED BY ANTI-DETENTE FORCES IN U.S. IN PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW MEETING. HE ALSO AVOIDS DIRECT COMMENT ON VISA CASES, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO ATTRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CARTER A STATEMENT REGARDING THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN "SUCH PRACTICES" AND HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

4. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE OBVIOUSLY HOLDING BACK ON MAKING A MAJOR ISSUE OF THE VISA DENIALS, WHILE SIGNALLING THAT THEY CAN MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT IF THEY CHOOSE. TSAPLIN'S COLUMN IN PARTICULAR IS AN INDICATION THAT SOVIETS CONSIDER CASES MAY BE WORTH INCLUDING ON LIST OF SOVIET COMPLAINTS ON NON-COMPLIANCE AT BELGRADE.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SOVIETS CITE U.S. VISA DENIALS TO COUNTER CRITICISM ON HELSINKI AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY: DURING WEEK OF APRIL 18 SOVIET PRESS MADE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US, CSCE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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